

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Scott A. Spellmon
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Chief Spellmon:

We write in strong support of the Congressionally authorized reprogramming of funds to support the New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries focus area study. Additionally, we support a study deadline extension because the COVID-19 pandemic and funding constraints have caused completion delays. These approvals are needed to ensure the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can address a variety of water resource problems in our communities, including navigation, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and hurricane and storm damage reduction.

As you know, the expected six-year study is a critical component to protecting our communities in the aftermath of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. We support this study because it is intended to assist the USACE with determining methods to address navigation, storm damage reduction, environmental restoration, multi-purpose watershed reviews to address coastal resiliency, and flood and storm damage reduction or environmental restoration.

As intensifying coastal storms and sea-level rise linked to climate change are expected in coming years, the previous administration's senseless decision to discontinue this needed work must be reversed.

To complete this important study, Congress provided USACE the authority to reprogram funds in the FY21 Omnibus Division D report.¹ Specifically, Congress noted the importance of completing this study to mitigate against future damage. We hope you will approve utilizing this congressional authority and the request for a study deadline extension. Both approvals are needed to get the focus area study moving forward.

¹ <https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20201221/BILLS-116RCP68-JES-DIVISION-D.pdf>

The New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries focus area study is an important foundation to our community's management of future flood risk. Thank you for your time and attention to our request. We look forward to working with you to protect our communities.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



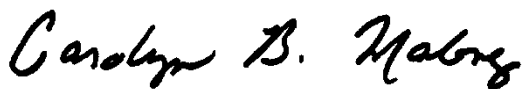
Jamaal Bowman
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



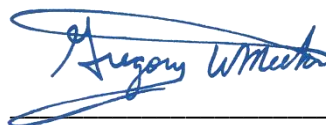
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



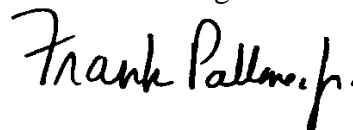
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress




Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress